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# THE ALBERTA HUNGER-MARCH

*and*

The Trial of the Victims  
of Brownlee's Police Terror

PUBLISHED BY THE  
C. L. D. L.  
HUNGER MARCH  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

10¢

Room 5, Murray Blk., 99th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

**C.L.  
D.L.**

## **THE CANADIAN LABOR DEFENSE LEAGUE**

The aims of the Canadian Labor Defense League shall be to unite all forces willing to co-operate into a broad National organization that will undertake to provide means for the defense and support of workers, regardless of their political or industrial affiliations, race, color or nationality, who are indicted and prosecuted on account of their activity in the Labor Movement.

To provide legal defense.

To provide material and moral support for all class war prisoners and their dependents.

To defend foreign born workers in Canada against persecution and unwarranted deportation.

To work for the repeal of all anti-working class laws.

To fight for the rights of free speech, free press and freedom of organization and assembly.

To mobilize the masses of workers and poor farmers for the widest mass protest action against the capitalist class terror, suppression and persecution in Canada.

## **JOIN**

## **The Canadian Labor Defense League**

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# **The Alberta Hunger-March**

*and*

*The Trial of the Victims  
of Brownlee's Police Terror*



***A Document to All Workers and Farmers  
to Remember the Events of December  
20th, 1932.***

# THE SEVEN CONVICTED



Demand Their Release

# PREFACE

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The Alberta Hunger March marks a turning point in the history of working class struggle in Canada. It marks a goal achieved. Never before in the history of this country have Farmers and Industrial Workers shown such a united front as was shown in Edmonton on December 20th, 1932.

We have learned in these last three years of crisis, that the interests of the Farmer, and the interests of the Worker are one and the same thing. That the enemy, who grinds the Worker into destitution, is the same enemy who robs the farmer of all he produces, and finally kicks him off his farm to starve.

What then is more natural, than to unite our forces for the common cause of maintaining ourselves, our wives and children in a decent standard of living. And why has this never been done before? The answer is very simple. Those in power know and have known for a long time, that the moment the Farmers and Workers unite together for a real struggle against any further exploitation, marks the beginning of the end for them. They knew this, and for years they have done all in their power to breed antagonism between the Industrial Worker and the Farmer, and to a very large extent they succeeded.

It took almost three years of misery and privation, before a lot of us saw things in their true light.

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The Alberta Hunger-March proved however, that the farmer and worker are not going to be so easily fooled from now on. That is the reason, the order was sent out to smash this Hunger-March at all costs, why Royal Canadian Mounted Police were sent out to intimidate and stop farmers from reaching Edmonton, it also explains why unarmed Farmers and Workers were clubbed, arrested and jailed for taking part in this demonstration.

These attacks however should not break the unity of our united front, but should only make us the more determined to carry on with the struggle for the final emancipation of all Farmers and Workers.

This is the object of this little booklet, to put all the facts of the Hunger March before the reader, and let him be the judge. Let us hope that it is read by every Worker and Farmer in the Dominion.

**A. Worker.**



## The Alberta Workers and Farmers in a Hunger March on Edmonton

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While Hunger Marches had been organised in a number of provinces of Canada, the Hunger March of workers and farmers on Edmonton on December 20th, deserves special attention.

Alberta had a Government composed of members of the U. F. A. Edmonton had a city council composed of six members of the Labor Party including the Mayor, and **controlled the City Council by a majority of one vote over all others.**

Leaders of the U. F. A. had assisted and promoted the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. The Brownlee Government and the U.F.A. defended the C. C. F. program during the Camrose elections in November. The following taken from the "U. F. A. Supplement", November 1st, 1932, confirms this.

....The electors thus gave a clear endorsement of the policies of the United Farmers of Alberta, of the record of the U. F. A. Government, and of a strong candidate, who throughout the campaign supported without reserve the advanced objectives which the Association has set itself to attain. These objectives were set forth in the ten-point Manifesto of the Edmonton U. F. A. Conference issued on Dominion Day, and in the program of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation which was brought into being in Calgary on August 1st, at a joint conference of representatives of Farmer and Labor organizations from many of the Provinces of Canada.

The leaders of the Edmonton Labor Party had also endorsed the C. C. F. Editorials and articles in the Alberta Labor News confirmed this endorsement. The following taken from the same "U. F. A. Supplement" serves as one example.

....But it is more than that. From the very first Mr. Ronning has declared his allegiance to the principles of the new Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the radical manifesto of the U. F. A. which was adopted in the early summer. Throughout the campaign the opposition, especially the Conservatives, whose candidate was at the foot of the poll, attempted to make all the capital it could out of the U. F. A. candidate's stand on the C. C. F. Mr. Duggan and his helpers held up the bogey of socialism to the electors and rang all the changes on the radical nature of the Federation's program.

The U. F. A. and the Government, the Premier in particular, are to be congratulated for the vigorous campaign they conducted. The result should serve as an indication that with candidates who hold and express radical views, and who are prepared to stand or fall on that forward looking program of the organization, the U. F. A. will continue to wield a dominating influence in Alberta's political life. On the other hand, if Tory newspapers in the cities can frighten the Government and U. F. A. candidates into soft pedalling on the economic realities of our day, the end of the farmers' organization will not be long in coming.

So any argument advanced by the C. C. F. leaders or near leaders, that the C. C. F. had not actually been organized, that the Labor Party and the United Farmers of Alberta had not yet affiliated at the time of the Hunger March is merely a screen to hide behind. The facts are that the C. C. F. after its organization in the province is not repudiating the actions of the **"Socialist"** Premier Brownlee, or the **"Socialist"** Labor Mayor of Edmonton. The further facts are that unlike other provinces where Hunger Marches had been organized, Alberta had a **"Socialist"** Government "to be" affiliated to the C. C. F. and Edmonton had a City Council controlled by the Labor Party which was also "to be" affiliated to that body.

That this made no difference to the Farmers and Workers is revealed in the further pages of this little publication. And it is this which makes the Alberta Hunger



March of such great importance not only to the Alberta Farmers and Workers but to all toilers of the Dominion of Canada. It is mainly because of the latter that this little booklet is published and we hope that it will be read by thousands of Workers and Farmers who honestly believed that such Governments as the U. F. A. Government of Alberta and such councils as the City Council of Edmonton would function in the interest of Farmers and Workers.

### **THE CRISIS AFFECTS ALBERTA WORKERS AND FARMERS**

It is a big drop from \$2.00 for a bushel of wheat to 25c a bushel, but it took only a few years to make this drop. While wheat was one dollar to two dollars a bushel farmers bought the other quarter section of land, built new houses, and new barns, bought tractors, motor cars and trucks. New roads were built by hundreds of miles, new schools built and as a consequence new obligations undertaken. With wheat at 25c a bushel farmers are now paying for the obligations incurred while wheat was from one to two dollars a bushel. It requires now from four to eight bushels of wheat compared with one bushel of wheat a few years ago to pay those new obligations. It requires as a result in many cases the total crop, plus the steers, plus the hogs, plus the cream, plus the poultry to pay interest, taxes, etc., while nothing is left for any clothing, replacement of tools and machinery, etc. **Yet the bushel of wheat of today will make as many loaves of bread as the bushel of a few years ago. Eggs, bacon, and cream or beef are as nourishing today as they were ever before.**

Far over half of the farmers are head over heels in debt and remain in debt even though they parted with nearly all they raised during the last few years. Nearly everybody knows that any day may be his last day on the farm, that he and his family had cut out of a wilderness. The farmers as a result are "on edge" they are rebelling. Sales for arrears of taxes or interest have been forcibly stopped in many districts by farmers seeking new

methods of struggle. Huge protest meetings have been held in almost every part of the province as a result of the conditions they are finding themselves in. The U.F.A. unable to lead any of those struggles has lost members by the thousand and in whole district there is nothing left but an apparatus which consists of a few people who once in a while have a few crumbs thrown to them by the Government of the province. No rank and file exists. It is safe to say that half the members of the U. F. A. are only farmers who get concessions in the shape of jobs or contracts from the Government at Edmonton. Leaders of the U. F. A. or members of the Government on their speaking tours faced hostile crowds of farmers everywhere during the last six months.

### **THE FAILURE OF THE U. F. A.**

In spite of the fact that the Government is composed mainly of U. F. A. members, conditions of the farmers of Alberta are as bad and their position as insecure as anywhere else. The Farmers of the Province because of their long experience, being composed to a very large extent of proletarian origin of the cities were possibly more advanced culturally than in any other western province. They had organized earlier and faster than in any other Province. They realized the failure of the leaders better, and earlier than any of the other provinces. Every convention of the U. F. A., which was held during this crisis, found the rank and file delegates confronted with opposition on the part of the U. F. A. Government. The Government introduced the R. C. M. P. in opposition to the rank and file. The Government at the last two conventions refused to consider a moratorium demanded by the rank and file. A School Act was introduced and finally had to be withdrawn because of rank and file opposition. The Government always opposed any move on the part of the Farmers who wanted to take up the struggle against their enemies. Today only a couple of thousand remain organized out of 32,000 once members of the U. F. A.

Exposed by the farmers the Government stands revealed as an ordinary Capitalist Government. There is

much which could be added here, but it appears to us that a special publication should be issued by the F. U. L. to go further into this because space in this one forbids any extensive treatment.

### **FARMERS SEEK NEW METHODS OF STRUGGLE**

That the Farmers were seeking a new way out of their difficulties is proven by the numerous struggles which took place independent of the U. F. A. The Munson Strike proposal while it would have been ineffective was nevertheless an honest attempt on the part of the farmers fed up with the U. F. A. officials to get out of the swamp. Every struggle against sheriff's sale's was an independent struggle or was led by the F. U. L. The Smoky Lake demonstration was led by the F. U. L. as was the one at Mayerthorpe and many other places. The U. F. A. even today leads no such movements. No wonder then that the farmers of Alberta particularly of Northern Alberta rallied to the Hunger March in such large numbers.

### **THE POSITION OF THE WORKERS IN EDMONTON AND OTHER ALBERTA CITIES AND TOWNS**

In this booklet we will deal largely with the conditions and the experiences of Edmonton Workers, we do so because the situation is different here than in any other city or town in the province. Edmonton has a city council controlled by the Labor Party, it also has a Labor Mayor. This did not prevent single unemployed men from being driven off relief and told to search for jobs when no jobs were available. It did not prevent relief to married men being cut by one dollar per week or more, or people being driven from homes into cheap tenement houses. Conditions for unemployed in Edmonton are as bad as in the other cities and towns where Labor Parties had never existed. Repeated efforts on the part of delegations from employed and unemployed workers demanding better conditions were unavailing. The Labor Party and the Trade Council failed to act against the betrayal by the Labor City Council. They are therefore as guilty as the City Council. Workers in Calgary, the Miners in the Crows Nest Pass, Miners in

Drumheller and other sections of the province had already found out that the Brownlee Government although endorsing the "**Socialist**" C. C. F. was just another Capitalist Government. But it remained for the Edmonton Party Leaders to prove that their "**Socialism**" was no different from the policies of R. B. Bennett.

All workers of Alberta in common with the Workers of Canada are suffering, and have sacrificed and are being compelled to make more and more sacrifices. One grudge was stored up on top of another. One delegation after another came back from the City Council or from the Government with messages that nothing could be done, that there was no money. Yet the Workers realized that Socialism could not be achieved as long as they were compelled to eat less, wear less, and move into shacks for the purpose of cutting expenses of Civic and other Governments. It was those conditions on the farms and in the cities which led to the Hunger March on Edmonton.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE MARCH**

The Civic election campaign of Edmonton interfered with the preparations of the Hunger March. The Committee which was elected at the Provincial Workers and Farmers Conference in October of 1932, was mainly composed of Edmonton Workers. The Campaign, which was directed against the Labor Party Leaders and the Do-nothing Policies of that Body, delayed the active work of the Hunger March Committee. We mention this because the delay in starting preparations was a great factor in the size of the Hunger March Demonstration. Organizers were few and only a comparative small section of the province could be covered by them. The response from those sections covered, proved that had the province been covered earlier and to a greater extent, the demonstration of Farmers and Workers would have been many times greater than it was. The action of the government, using R. C. M. P. to stop the marchers from Calgary, Drumheller, and other places also had the effect of keeping away hundreds of farmers and workers. It is indeed amusing to read that the Alberta Government was greatly concerned about the hardship such a march on Edmonton at that

time of the year would entail, when hundreds of farmers and workers are forced to endure all sorts of hardship arising from the crisis such as they have never endured before.

### **THE DEMONSTRATION OF FARMERS AND WORKERS IN EDMONTON ON DECEMBER 20th, 1932.**

Farmers and workers began to arrive in Edmonton on December 16th. Many had been traveling nights in trucks and sleighs and in motor cars, while hundreds walked. On the morning of December 20th at least 2,000 farmers and workers had arrived from outside places. W. I. R. kitchens were working hard to feed this great mass. Truck loads of pork, beef, poultry, flour and vegetables donated by the farmers of the province for the purpose of maintaining the marchers while in the city had arrived. Never was there such solidarity shown between farmers and workers. Early in the afternoon people of the city began to assemble on or near the square. Police spies whose wages are paid out of the pockets of farmers and workers were in evidence in halls, kitchens, and the local conferences, always intimidating the marchers. Special delegations were dispatched to see the Premier of the Province and the Mayor of the city persuading them to grant a permit at the last moment. The day before the demonstration the headquarters of the Hunger Marchers and other halls had been searched by the R. C. M. P. and the local police for arms and ammunition. None were found. **The demonstrators had not come to shoot, but to see the Premier.** At 3 p.m. about twelve thousand people were on or near the square while every roof of the buildings nearby was loaded with spectators. It was rumored that several buildings around the square had been occupied by the R.C.M.P., who had machine guns trained on the square. All available local police was marched to the square armed with billies. Dozens of mounted R. C. M. P. with clubs hanging from the saddles occupied the streets leading to and from the square. The **"Socialism" of the C. C. F. was in uniform** to the tune of a few hundred, stool-pigeons were turned loose among the crowd by the dozens to spy out the leaders, and active men, and women.

After a few short speeches by workers and farmers the announcement was made that no permit for the parade would be granted. Brownlee and Knott had decided that the streets were forbidden to Workers and Farmers. It was decided that the sidewalks be used to go to the Parliament Buildings. The crowd began to move off, the police got into action. The best picture we can give of the action of the police is the following description of a bystander which appeared in the Manifesto issued by the Provincial Hunger March Committee.

### **THE FEELINGS OF A BY-STANDER ON BLOODY TUESDAY**

Have you ever been confronted by a rearing, maddened horse? Have you ever been attacked by shouting policemen? Have you ever tried to force your way through a roaring, booing, crowd of people, with panic pressing in on you from every side, and the sound of descending police billies pounding on your ear drums?

I was standing on the sidewalk watching the police and waiting for the marchers when a sudden, horror filled cry swept through the crowd. "Watch out! The horses!" Hemmed in by buildings, escape impossible, men, women, and children were ruthlessly ridden down. It is an awful feeling that comes over one at the sight of doom approaching and no way of evading it. Those hoofs spelt death, those clubs meant at least a sore, sore head. For an instant I felt utterly helpless, then the desire to escape became so strong that I jammed my way through the crowd and into the comparative safety of two parked cars. A few others were squeezed in there and when the horses galloped past we breathed easier. But only for an instant. Then three shouting cops attacked us. By this time I was seeing red, but it did me no good. Two of our little band went down. Then a woman fell over them and I on top of her. For one sickening second I knew I was going out. Nothing I could do would help me, I felt a blinding pain shoot through my head. And with the boos of the crowd in my ears I went out. The lump on my head still feels sore. But what is much worse,

is the injustice which gave me the bump. Such injustice has got to end some time. It's up to us!

**A. Worker.**

This is the way the "Socialist" Brownlee Government and the "Socialist" Labor City Council deal with the workers and farmers who are desperately in need of food, clothing and shelter. **"Socialist"** Knott watched the whole bloody affair from his window in the city hall, the Labor Bureaucracy watched from their windows in the Labor Hall.

The next day forty Workers and Farmers were arrested with the help of the stool-pigeons which the Brownlee Government employed and paid out of the money of the Farmers and other people. The trial proves that the U. F. A. Government used stool-pigeons to spy on the militants in their own organization.

## The Preliminary Hearing Before Magistrate Primrose

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The preliminary hearing proved, that the government was not so much concerned with the charge (Unlawful Assembly) as they were about victimizing men and women, who were opposed to the activities of the capitalist class. They were concerned about breaking a workers political party, which they believed to be the organizer of the Hunger March. The following is taken from the Edmonton Capitalist press and it shows the intention.

### I.

#### **Posed as Communist**

Constable A. H. Keeler was called to the stand. He said he had been a member of the A. P. P. and latterly the R. C. M. P. for some years and from October 21, 1930 to May 22nd, 1931, he was a "member" of the Communist party and affiliated organizations. He was assigned as a police officer to join the Communists.

He presented documents which he had obtained while a member of the Communist group. He said they advocated various things and the use of violence, if necessary to get them.

The policeman said that the Canadian Labor Defense League looks after the defense of "class-war-prisoners", and presented a constitution of the organization.

The witness said that the "central hunger march committee" was named by the Edmonton unemployed workers' council, which, he said, is a Communist controlled organization. Other Communist-controlled organizations include the "Young Pioneers", an organization having the ages of its members kept between 8 and 12 or 14.

#### **Determined on Meeting**

One of the mimeographed forms the witness presented was printed before the trouble. Mr. Becker quoted



from it: "Mayor Knott is afraid,"—"Are we going to lay down and take it?"

Constable Keeler said he had attended numerous meetings of the Communist party at the market square and at the Gem Theatre.

"They were determined to hold the meeting", the policemen testified. "All their meetings from December 14th on discussed plans for the 'hunger march.'" These meetings, the witness said, were open sessions and he had no difficulty attending them.

The witness was present at the December 20th disturbance.

He saw the banners being moved off the square just before the disturbance. The banners included such declarations as "We will use all our force to save our homes," and "organize and fight."

The witness then began to go over the names of the accused, one by one, to identify those whom he could as being in the disturbance.

**Here is the evidence of another stool-pigeon placed in the ranks of the workers by Brownlee and Bennett.**

Jacob Tatko, former city police court interpreter, was called to the stand. He testified that while representing the R. C. M. P. he had been a member of the Communist party and had been expelled from the latter organization in 1928 when his identity became known. Since that time he had attended open meetings of the Communist groups. He was asked particularly about Peter Kyforuk and said at first that he was in the Communist hall at the time that Kyforuk was appointed as an organizer. Later he said that he was not sure of this, and still later said that he had heard from others that Kyforuk had been appointed. At any rate, Kyforuk was passing himself off as an organizer.

Under cross examination by Mr. Howson the witness could not make himself clear. He referred to an address by Kyforuk at Smoky Lake in which Kyforuk was quoted as saying that the present system of society is failing.

Six were discharged at this preliminary hearing and all others remanded for trial.

Between the preliminary hearing, and the Higher

Court trials set for January 25. The Canadian Labor Defense League carried on an active campaign amongst the Farmers and Workers. The action of the Brownlee Government and the Labor Party in the City Council of Edmonton had so enraged the workers and farmers in the Edmonton District, that the campaign of the C.L.D.L. commencing with a manifesto of 50,000 copies permeated every gathering. In the Trades Council of Edmonton, in the Labor Parties and in the Local Unions, the actions of Brownlee and Knott became a very live issue and this is still continued. It became an issue in dozens of locals of the U. F. A. and resulted at the Convention of the Federal Constituency of Athabasca U. F. A. in the adoption of a resolution demanding the release of the prisoners. As a result it became a factor at the U. F. A. convention in Calgary. It compelled the Lieutenant Governor of the Province to deliver a tirade against the militants in workers and farmers organizations, while opening the U. F. A. convention in Calgary. It compelled Mr. Lymburn, the Attorney General of this Province, to justify the anti-worker and anti-farmer attitude of the "Socialist" Brownlee Government at the same convention. It compelled since that time the Labor Party and the Trades Council to whitewash Dan Knott and Brownlee and to denounce the leaders of the Hunger March for not consulting the Labor Party Leaders.

The campaign of the Canadian Labor Defense League not only exposed the betrayers of the workers and farmers to a very large number of the rank and file of both sections, but it was a tremendous factor in the coming trials.

The trial opened on the morning of January 25th, and immediately five more of the prisoners were released. The sentiment outside of the court room had much to do with this release.

The following is taken from capitalist press notes:

**MEN WERE NOT GIVEN STATUTORY WARNING  
WHEN QUESTIONED BY POLICE**

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**STATEMENTS BARRED**

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**Only 17 of 26 Accused Originally Remain on Trial**

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The number of men facing charges of unlawful assembly as a result of the "hunger march" demonstration on December 20th was further reduced in supreme criminal court Thursday when the crown discontinued prosecution against William M. Patterson, Anthony Nowakowsky, Kauns Staudinger, Ben Swanky and Jack Sereda. As charges against Richard Lexau, Lewis Murray, Peter Kassian and John Nickelick were dropped when the trial opened Wednesday, the number remaining on trial is 17.

**Bars Statements**

Discharge of the five accused followed refusal of Mr. Justice Ives, who is presiding with a jury, to admit evidence of statements made by these men to police officers at the city police headquarters on the day following the demonstration.

The ruling against admission of these statements was made when Detective Keeler of the R. C. M. P., was on the witness stand. Keeler swore he had visited the Ukrainian labor temple and the Youth centre when meetings were in progress. Witness had seen several of the defendants there and asked them to come to the police station for questioning.

**"Entitled to Warning"**

Accused had made certain statements in the presence of witness, R. C. M. P. Superintendent Hancock, and Chief of City Detectives Robertson Sutherland. The men were not under arrest at the time and the statutory warning had not been given, Constable Keeler stated.

W. R. Howson objected to the statements going in when the accused had not been warned, and in upholding the objection the court observed:

"While I have stated several times I have no sympathy for the man who doesn't obey orders of the police, in this case I think there can be no doubt but what the accused felt they were virtually compelled to accompany the officers and therefore when they arrived at the police station they were entitled to warning".

"Because I insist on obedience to the police does not change the present situation," Mr. Justice Ives added.

### **Charge Dropped**

Some time later, following a five-minute adjournment,, E. B. Cogswell, K. C., asked permission to drop the charges against the five mentioned, pointing out that as the statements made to the police by these men were practically the only evidence the crown had against them it would be futile to continue.

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The following evidence which was also taken from the capitalist press reveals the filth employed by the "Socialist" Government to spy upon members of the U. F. A. and upon workers who speak at meetings. Here is a chunk of meat, who was a preacher, an ex-poker shark and then became a stool-pigeon who draws his wages from the people of this province

### **Reports Speeches**

Detective Wilchinsky of the city police force, who was on the stand for a long period and had not completed his evidence when court adjourned, told the court of numerous speeches he had listened to on the Market Square and in the Gem theatre.

Witness caused considerable amusement when asked to identify certain of the defendants whom he had previously mentioned as having delivered fiery speeches on the market square and elsewhere previous to and after the demonstration.

Spectators, members of the jury and even Mr. Justice Ives laughed heartily when Wilchinsky sought to pick out George Poole from the group of defendants, forming a large semi-circle at the front of the court.

The officer made a complete circuit of the group scan-

ning each face closely, and finally pausing to give voice to the perplexed ejaculation:

● "He's changed his face."

"Your getting warmer," R. F. Jackson, one of the defence counsel observed as Wilchinski passed close to the table at which the lawyers and newspaper reporters were seated.

### **Finds His Man**

"There he is," the detective declared triumphantly, pointing to a man seated next to Mr. Jackson.

"I thought he was a lawyer and it fooled me," witness explained as the court room broke into laughter.

Poole is conducting his own defence.

Wilchinski was examined by E. B. Cogswell, K.C.

Q. Did you see Poole in the market square on December 20th? A. Yes, he was one of the speakers. He made a big speech.

Q. What did he say? A. He said this demonstration is the best answer to Premier Brownlee, from the farmers and workers. No one can stop the parade as the workers made the streets and can walk on them if they wish. We intend to hold a peaceful parade but if the police try to stop us God help them."

Witness said he had also heard Poole speak on another occasion in the Gem Theatre.

Q. Who else did you see there? A. I saw Alex Miller.

Q. What was he doing? A. I didn't see him in the parade but he was standing in the square.

Q. Who else? A. Pete Doley; he was also in the square but I didn't see him in the parade either.

Q. Did you see Doley previous to that? A. Yes. He made a speech on the market square on December 13th in which he made sarcastic references to "Bennett's prosperity" and urged the workers and farmers to unite and make better conditions.

### **Defies Authorities**

D. Did he make any reference to the parade? A. He said they will try and stop us, but they can't stop the working masses.

Witness then identified Sam Rosin.

Q. Did you see Rosin on December 20th? A. Yes, he was on the market square but I didn't see him in the parade either. He made a speech, saying that the parade was organized and that it must be held despite Brownlee and Knott.

Witness was not sure of the date of this speech, but it was not on the day of the parade.

Q. Who else did you see? A. John Oraschuk. He was on the market square on December 20th. He made a speech on December 25th.

W. R. Howson, defence counsel objected to evidence about a speech made after the demonstration, but the court over-ruled the objection, stating it might contain admissions of the defendant's participation in the parade.

Q. What did Oraschuk say in the speech? A. He said he was one of those working class criminals who had been sent to jail and that it didn't matter about being in jail, he would fight again in the class struggle. Going to jail would not change him.

Peter Kyforuk was identified by witness as one he saw at the market square but witness was not sure whether he had seen him in the parade or not.

#### **Glorifies Soviet**

Q. Did you see Murdock Clarke on December 20th. A. Yes, he was in the crowd and made a speech. He said that to go ahead with the parade and that the hunger marches would continue until we had the same rule here as in Russia. He glorified Soviet Russia at the market square and at the Gem theatre meetings on several occasions

Witness stated that he had also seen John Nickelick, one of those discharged and Mike Hayduk, on the market square.

Mr. Howson cross-examined.

Q. You were a preacher a few years ago. A. Yes.

Q. And you are now an expert on poker games. A. No.

Q. You give evidence in court on poker games. A. Yes.

"Well that's two accomplishments you have," defence counsel remarked.

Q. Your eyesight is not good. A. I wear glasses.

Q. Will you pick out Mike Hayduk, please?

Witness left the stand and pointed to one of the defendants after some hesitation.

"That's not the man you selected a minute ago for Mr. Cogswell," Mr. Howson stated.

The court interrupted the examination at this stage.

"Witness was asked to identify Hayduk and he pointed to that corner of the room. I said, stand up Hayduk and this other man stood up," Mr. Justice Ives explained to the counsel.

Q. Isn't it true that you can see no further than 12 feet? A. No.

Q. Is it not true that these men you have identified were merely some of the persons in the crowd of 3,000 in the market square that day and that they were just standing around looking on like excited spectators would? A. Yes, except for the speaker's.

Q. Take Max Mohr. He was standing with a number of children around him. What was wrong with that? A. I don't know. There must have been something wrong for children to be in that crowd.

Q. Take Sam Rosin. He is only 17 years old. A. I paid particular attention to him as he made very bad speeches.

Q. Peter Doley was on the benches near the speakers and that's all there was to him. A. Yes, all I saw.

Q. What was Mike Woytyshyn doing? A. No one was doing any dancing or prancing.

#### **Warns Witness**

Q. Did you see anyone else there? A. I didn't see you.

"Be careful and don't get too smart or we'll take that out of you," counsel warned the witness.

Sergeant Edward Watson of the city police testified. Witness stated he was attached to the squad of foot police stationed on the northwest side of the market square before the parade formed.

Q. What did you observe? A. I saw a line of people carrying banners, move in a stream toward 100 st. where I temporarily lost sight of them.

Q. Where did you next see the parade? A. Just east of the R. C. M. P. mounted troops. We had orders to advance and we intercepted the parade at the southwest corner of 101A ave, and 100 st.

Q. Could you identify any individual in the parade at that time? A. No. A missile, that I took for a stone, just missed a policeman and struck the side of the post office building. We ordered the paraders to stop and then two or three of them struck the police with their fists. One was carrying a banner stick.

Q. Where did you go then? A. I moved along to the east end of the post office where there were several women and men standing between two autos, on the north side of 101A ave. I told some one to move away and just then one of the women was struck by a flying missile. I saw a man poise and hurl another missile. This man grabbed a stick; it was a two-by-two and he hurled it at the R. C. M. P. body that was moving down the street. I rushed at him. He was hollering "Kill the——." There was only three in our group of policemen at the time and the man was urging the crowd to attack us.

#### Identifies Man

Q. Who was the man? A. It was John Gager.

Q. Do you see him here? A. Yes. He is over there.

Witness produced a large banner on which was described: "Down with Bennett's tariffs and Brownlee's fakers." It was entered as an exhibit, after witness had identified it as one he had picked up on the scene of the demonstration.

M. Howson cross-examined.

Q. This banner wouldn't cause a breach of the peace?

Mr. Justice Ives: "Some thinskinners might think they were the Brownlee fakers."

Q. Gager was the only one arrested then? A. Yes, I think he was the only one.

Q. Would you consider Gager any more than an ordinary spectator? A. Yes. He kept yelling: "Give it to them. We've got them now."

Witness swore he was struck several times in the stomach by either fists or elbows.



Q Was Gager in the parade? A. I don't know; he was near those carrying the banners.

Constable James McMurray told of coming to the assistance of Sergeant Watson and of arresting Gager. Several rocks were found in Gager's pockets, the constable swore.

"Would there be any difficulty in reaching 101 ave. from the point where you saw Gager?" the court asked.

"No," was the reply.

### **Commanded Mounted**

Superintendent Thomas A. Irvine of the R. C. M. P. gave evidence. Witness stated he had been in command of the mounted squadron on the day of the demonstration, and had operated in conjunction with dismounted R. C. M. P. and city foot police.

"I saw a procession carrying banners move out from the market square and turned my mounted men around to face the approaching parade," Inspector Irvine testified.

Q. What did you do then? A. I gave orders to "walk march."

Q. Was there any unnecessary violence? A. No, the horses did the work. We just moved through the crowd and dispersed it.

Q. Could you hear what the paraders were saying? A. No. I was in command of the troop and was pretty busy.

Q. Where did the crowd go? A. Some went to the sidewalks, other climbed to the roof of the market building, others climbed on the running boards of parked autos, while some fled to the pile of Christmas trees in the square. They went everywhere to get off the street.

Q. Were there any missiles thrown? A. One of my men, I don't remember who, was struck with one. I saw none thrown, however.

Mr. Howson questioned the witness.

Q. There was a big crowd at the corner of 100 st. and 101A ave. and the crowd surged out on the middle of the street? A. Yes, it seemed to me that the crowd filled the street from wall to wall.

Q. You don't know whether they were paraders or excited spectators? A. No, but I saw some banners in the crowd.

### **To Prevent Parade**

Q. Up to the time your men advanced there was no trouble? A. We were there to prevent the parade.

Q. Was the crowd in the market square before the parade any different than a football or hockey crowd and did it cause you greater apprehension? A. Yes.

Q. Why? A. The general appearance of the crowd. Sergeant Hancock, R. C. M. P., Vegreville detachment was called.

Witness told of warning prospective hunger marchers in the country districts not to come to Edmonton for the parade as it was prohibited. He had also told certain persons that it was dangerous to preach Communist doctrines, he swore.

Detective Coggles testified that he had visited the offices of the Central Hunger March committee on 96 st. on several occasions and warned the secretary that the parade would not be permitted.

Evidence was given by Postmaster A. McKenzie. Witness stated under oath that it was impossible to conduct business properly inside the building because of the large number of people that crowded the offices when the parade was in progress.

### **Lobby Blocked**

"The lobby of the post office was completely blocked," Mr. McKenzie testified.

J. A. Werner, hardware merchant and Elmer Runch, filling station proprietor, stated that they saw the crowd gather on the market square and the parade start out. They could not identify any of the paraders.

The case is not expected to conclude before Friday night.

### **THE TRIAL ENDED ON JANUARY 27th**

The workers and farmers had made their influence felt to a great extent but not to the extent of keeping all the accused out of the clutches of the Capitalist class. The jury pronounced seven of them guilty of an unlawful assembly and recommended "leniency." The judge sentenced Comrades Poole, Clarke, Woytyshyn and Gager to six

months hard labor, Draper and Doley two months hard labor, and Berlando one month hard labor. Some of the jury were visibly surprised when the judge pronounced these sentences.

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## **A WORKER LOOKS AT THE TRIAL**

A great crime has been committed and Justice is collecting its toll. Over a score of workers and farmers are arrested and tried because they raised their voices against Brownlee's policy of Starvation.

The accused file in and plead not guilty to the charge of being members of an unlawful assembly. Stool-pigeons, paid to spy on workers, give evidence against these prisoners of the U.F.A. government. They "saw" banners being hoisted, speakers advocating defiance of law and order and institution of Russian rule in Canada. Under cross-examination they become confused. Considerable merriment in the Court is caused by one of them trying to identify one of the accused. A stupid exhibition. Chief Shute, like a good boy, takes the responsibility for prohibiting and smashing the parade. "No, he did not get any instructions from Brownlee or "Labor" Mayor Knott to prohibit or smash the parade. "OH NO !!! But those two gentlemen glowingly commend the police for its action. Some business men testify that they lost business on account of the Hunger March. (Thank heaven it was not on account of the depression). Witnesses are examined and cross-examined. The prosecution makes little impression.

The courtroom and corridors are filled with spectators, all silently rooting for the defendants.

Ten of the accused are discharged. Confronted with the resentment of almost the whole of Edmonton to his brutality. Brownlee is retreating... Everybody is muttering: "So that's the policy of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation!"

The Court adjourns for dinner. Arguments develop in the corridors: "I tell you those fellows haven't got a chance in the world. Brownlee starves them and Brownlee

arrests them; they are taken to Court and Brownlee tries them and when the trial is over, Brownlee passes sentence upon them." "It is the Brownlee Government that does the whole thing. Of course the "Labor" Council is in cahoots with Brownlee." "The only chance these fellows have got of getting justice might be because almost everyone is against the government. Brownlee won't be Premier after the next election." And so the arguments proceed.

The Court opens again. Some of the arrested take the stand. One is a farmer with a family of five children. He applied for relief but it was refused him. He came from his farm to the Hunger March believing that it would make the authorities do something... He is a member of the U.F.A. So is Brownlee... Another farmer on the stand. From out of town. He is a member of the U.F.A., has been for years, very active in the organization and holds several official positions in it. He has attended U.F.A. Conventions and helped a U.F.A. member to be elected to Parliament.

And so the trial goes on.

Finally the show is over and the Judge does his duty like a man. It is just a few words, but it means many weary months behind prison bars for seven men. Perhaps deportation for some of them. For the crime of having raised their voices against starvation. Imprisonment at the hands of the people they had themselves helped to elect to parliament and who tacked the name of "labor" or "farmer" to their parties and their policies.

To a worker the whole trial was a scream. To every honest worker it was the wrong bunch that was being tried. It is the men now languishing in Fort Saskatchewan that should be free and the leaders of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation put away for the sake of public safety, along with the bankers and capitalists whom they serve so faithfully.

To any Edmonton worker who had the opportunity of witnessing it, the trial was a valuable lesson.

And the working class does not speedily forget what it has once learned.

An Onlooker. ..

## **OUR TASKS**

The task of the workers and farmers now is to demand the immediate release of these prisoners. Every worker and every farmer at any meeting should raise their voice in protest against the actions of the Brownlee Government and demand from them and from the Dominion Government their immediate and unconditional release. Only mass pressure of farmers and workers will release them.

Another task is the one of building up the defense of workers and farmers. The struggle becomes keener each day, and with it increased militancy on the part of victims of the crisis. The capitalist class will strive to break up every militant movement by jailing and discriminating against its leaders. The Canadian Labor Defense League is the defence movement of the militant workers and farmers. It must be built up. Every locality must organize a branch of the C.L.D.L.

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The further task and one of great importance to all workers and farmers is the repeal of section 87 of the criminal code, under this section the Hunger Marchers were arrested and sent to jail.

It reads as follows:

### **SECTION 87**

1). An unlawful assembly is an assembly of three or more persons, who, with intent to carry out any common purpose, assemble in such a manner or so conduct themselves when assembled as to cause persons in the neighborhood of such assembly to fear, on reasonable grounds, that the persons so assembled will disturb the peace tumultuously, or will by such assembly needlessly and without any reasonable occasion provoke other person to disturb the peace tumultuously.

2). Persons lawfully assembled may become an unlawful assembly if they conduct themselves with a common purpose in such a manner, as would have made their

assembly unlawful if they had assembled in that manner for that purpose.

This act is not only directed against the radicals of to-day but, can as the reader will see, be directed against any group of workers or farmers.

A gathering of trade unionists discussing action against wage cuts, etc., can on complaint of any one in the neighborhood that it "may" become tumultuous be declared an "Unlawful Assembly."

Any gathering of workers or farmers is an "unlawful assembly" when a few people opposed to our class, say so.

This Act is intended to keep farmers and workers in subjection. It is there to prevent us from carrying on a struggle against the capitalist class. The Campaign of the Canadian Labor Defense League for the repeal of section 87 must be taken up by every worker and farmer.

**The demand for the release of the arrested Hunger Marcher's must be accompanied with the demand to the Bennett Government for the repeal of section 87.**

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## NEW ARRESTS

While this pamphlet is being prepared word reached the Hunger March Defense Committee that the C.C.F. Government of Alberta is still arresting Hungermarchers. Demitro Andoni, Augustus Popiel and Jerry Popiel have been arrested at Mundare. All are being charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, and were hauled off to Edmonton.

Andrew Irvine, organizer of the Workers Ex-service-mens League, was arrested in Calgary on February 13th, nearly two months after the Hunger March. He is also charged with being a member of an unlawful assembly.

Charles Stewart active among the workers organizations in Alberta was arrested February 15th in his Hotel at Westlock, Alberta, after addressing a meeting of farmers.

These comrades will be tried during the second week in March in the Supreme Criminal Court in Edmonton.

When the police landed in Mundare they immediately procured the assistance of the Ukrainian Nationalists to locate the residences of the three mentioned Comrades for whom they claimed to have warrants. The house of Comrade Andoni was raided and such material as the Labor News and some issues of the "The Working Women" taken away.

The opposition shown by the Nationalists against the militant workers of Mundare should be a lesson not only to the workers at Mundare, but also to every worker and poor farmer throughout Alberta. According to the evidence given against Comrade Mike Nowakowsky (another worker from Mundare) it is evident that these individuals are working hand in hand with the R.C.M.P. at every opportunity that they may get, not only because of their Nationalistic Prejudices, but as direct supporters of the Capitalist system and its terror.

Comrades Irvine and Stewart together with the comrades from Mundare can only be taken from the clutches of the capitalist class and the C.C.F. bureaucracy through mass protest.

Workers and farmers send in your protest to J. E. Brownlee, D. K. Knott, and the Edmonton City Council, and to the Attorney General of Alberta. Demand the immediate and unconditional release of all workers and farmers sentenced to jail terms ranging from one to six months hard labor in connection with the Hunger March.

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## THE WORKERS' UNITY LEAGUE

The present situation in Canada, with increasing unemployment, and new, widespread attacks against the already low living standards of the workers, exposes the complete bankruptcy of the reformist unions and their inability to lead and organize the workers in struggle. Since the world war the condition of the workers has continuously grown worse, and they enter the fourth year of the economic crisis facing greater misery, hunger and privation than ever before. The discontent of the workers is at the boiling point, and cannot find an outlet in the boss-controlled, corrupt, bureaucratically led reformist unions, the leaders of which continuously lead this discontent into the channels of class collaboration and defeat.

This open policy of betrayal of the workers by the reformist leaders has turned these unions into organizations that are used against the workers. This has been carried out against the opinions and wishes of the members, and has made necessary organizing of a new revolutionary trade union movement. The organization of the Workers' Unity League, as the revolutionary trade Union Center around which is being organized a whole series of the class struggle, is the most important development in the history of the Canadian trade union movement.

### UNITED FRONT

The Workers' Unity League lays great stress on the United Front from below tactics, as the best method of uniting the greatest number of workers in struggle and of breaking down the prejudices created within the ranks of the workers by bourgeois education, the sole purpose of which is to keep the workers divided into warring groups: native-born against foreign-born, white against oriental and negroes, women against men, youth against adults, non-Jews against Jews, Catholic against Protestant, so that the employers can utilize this artificial difference to stifle the resistance of the workers and defeat them piece-meal. The W.U.L. exposes the purpose of this subtle poison injected into the ranks of the workers by the bourgeoisie and calls upon the workers to unite in a



struggle for their common economic demands, irrespective of race, creed, color, nationality, sex or age, to fight as workers whose common interest is diametrically opposed to that of their employers. **THE WORKING CLASS AGAINST THE CAPITALIST CLASS.**

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### **WORKERS' UNITY LEAGUE DEMANDS**

**Non-Contributory Unemployment Insurance at Full Wages at the expense of the Boss and State.**

**The 7-hour Day, 5-Day Weeks without reductions in pay; 6-hour day for workers in hazardous industries.**

**Equal pay for equal work for all Women and Young Workers.**

### **WORKERS' UNITY LEAGUE IS AGAINST**

**Wage reduction and for wage increases.**

**Lay-offs and part-time work.**

**Police terror, Section 98, imprisonment and deportation of militant workers.**

**Against Imperialist War and for the Defense of the Soviet Union.**

**JOIN THE WORKERS' UNITY LEAGUE.**

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**DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THE CONVICTED  
WORKER'S BY SIGNING AND MAILING THE  
ATTACHED PROTEST TO PREMIER J. E. BROWN-  
LEE, PARLIAMENT BLDGS, EDMONTON, ALTA.**

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**I, the undersigned do hereby register Protest against  
the action taken by Premier Brownlee to smash the  
Farmers and Workers Demonstration on Dec. 20th, 1932,  
and demand the immediate and unconditional release of  
all Worker's and Farmer's sentenced to jail in connection  
with the above mentioned Demonstration and also the  
repeal of Section 87 of the Criminal Code.**

**Name .....**

**Address .....**

**Occupation .....**

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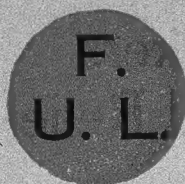
### LEFT TO RIGHT — STARTING FROM THE TOP

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Nowakowsky ; J. Nickelik ; A. Woytyshyn ; M. Hayduk ;  
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**Alberta Workers and Farmers Attacked  
by the Police**



# Farmers' Unity League

THE  
FARMERS' UNITY LEAGUE  
invites all poor farmers to  
ORGANIZE

**FOR:**

Our living before bankers' profits.

No foreclosures, evictions, tax sales.

A standard of living equal to \$1,000.00 a year for every working farmer as his share in the wealth he helps produce.

Free medical and hospital attention for all, who cannot pay for the same.

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Old age pensions at age of sixty.

Unity of the farmers and city workers.

Socialist production, workers' control.

**AGAINST:**

Fascist terror and reformist betrayal.

Imperialist War and intervention in the U.S.S.R.

**WE TRUST NO POLITICIANS**

**WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES**

**EVERY FARMER**

**JOIN THE F. U. L.**





# The Workers' International Relief

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NON - POLITICAL, NON - SECTARIAN,  
NON - PARTISAN.

*BUT ALWAYS FOR THE WORKERS!*

## A I M S :

The W.I.R. is a workers' SELF-HELP organization — aid from the workers for workers, distinct and apart from capitalist charity. Its function shall be to promote international working class help and raise the spirit of SOLIDARITY among all workers; those who give and those who receive.

It shall administer relief with impartiality, render assistance without discrimination as to party, religion or race.

The W.I.R. shall aid the workers in their struggles in all ways possible within the present system, at the same time pointing out that COMPLETE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

No Charity ——— But Solidarity

## JOIN

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## The Workers' International Relief

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